not, this is almost the only point wherein they differ in their food from the Rails and the Herons and other true waders with which they are thrown into intimate, if temporary, association and alliance. It has been to me a never-failing source of interest to watch these wading perchers, so truly aquatic in habit, brought into such close relations with birds to which they have no affinity; and watching them would bring unbidden the reflection, how beautifully Nature, in her wise economy, causes seemingly fortuitous circumstance to mould her few great types into many different shapes, to bend her few great aims to unnumbered purposes, to resolve her essential unity into endless diversity!

Fort Macon, North Carolina,
February 1870.

XXVI.—*On rare or little-known* Limicolæ.

By James Edmund Harting, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

(Plate XI.)

[Continued from p. 213.]

I proposed in my last paper, for the sake of convenience, to divide the rufous-breasted Plovers into two groups—those which in structure and habits resemble the Dotterels (*Eudromias*), and those whose affinities are with the Shore-Plovers (*Ægialitis*).

Having disposed of the former, I now proceed with the latter, and will try to bring together materials for a complete history, so far as possible, of the remaining two species, *Æ. geoffroyi* and *Æ. mongolicus*, whose general resemblance, as I before mentioned, both in summer and winter plumage, has led to their being frequently confounded.

5. Ægialitis geoffroyi.

Charadrius asiaticus, Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 187 (1820); Tristram, P. Z. S. 1864, p. 450, *et* Ibis, 1867, p. 93 (*nec* Pall.).

Charadrius geoffroyi, Wagler, Syst. Av. fol. 4, p. 13, no. 19 (1827); Kittlitz, Kupfert. Vög. p. 26, pl. 34, fig. 2 (1833); Blyth, J. A. S. B. xii. p. 180 (1843); Heuglin, Ibis, 1859, p. 345; E. Newton, *op. cit.* 1863, p. 455, *et* 1866, p. 343; Blyth, *op. cit.* 1865, p. 34.

Charadrius leschenaulti, Lesson, Man. d'Orn. ii. p. 322 (1828); Swinhoe, J. A. S. B. xxix. p. 259 (1861); Layard, B. S. Afr. p. 299 (1867).

Charadrius griseus, Lesson, Tr. d'Orn. ii. p. 544 (1831).

"*Charadrius fuscus*, Cuvier," Pucheran, R. Z. 1851, p. 282.

Charadrius rufinus, Blyth, Ann. & Mag. N. H. xii. p. 169 (1843), *et* Cat. B. Mus. As. Soc. p. 262 (1849); Hodgson, Zool. Misc. p. 86 (1844).

Hiaticula geoffroyi, Rüppell, Syst. Uebers. p. 118 (1845).

Ochthodromus columboides, Reichenbach.

Hiaticula columbina, Lichtenstein, Nom. Av. Mus. Zool. Berol. p. 94 (1854).

Cirripedesmus [lege *Cirrhepidesmus*] *geoffroyi*, Bonap. Compt. Rend. 1856, p. 417.

Ægialites geoffroyi, Heuglin, Syst. Uebers. Vög. N. O. Afr. p. 56 (1856); Swinhoe, Ibis, 1863, p. 405; Jerdon, B. Ind. iii. p. 638 (1864).

Hab. Shores of Asia, and islands from Sea of Japan to the Red Sea, Malay Archipelago to Northern Australia, shores of Western Africa, and islands from Egypt to the Cape of Good Hope:—*a.* India (*Blyth, Jerdon*); Nepaul (*Hodgson*); Palestine (*Tristram*); Peninsula of Sinai (*Lord*); Red-Sea shore (*Kittlitz, Rüppell, Heuglin*); Abyssinia (*Blanford*); Zanzibar (*Kirk*); Seychelles and Mauritius (*E. Newton*); Madagascar (*E. Newton, Pollen & Van Dam*); South Africa, Cape Town (*Layard*). *b.* Japan (*Whitely*); China, Shanghai, Amoy, Formosa (*Swinhoe*); Philippines (*Cuming*); Sumatra (*S. Müller, Horner*); Borneo (*Diard*); Java (*Wagler, Horsfield, Kuhl, Van Hasselt*); Mortai and Gilolo (*Bernstein*); Ceram (*Forsten, Hoedt*); Amboyna, Ternate, Batjan (*Bernstein*); Flores, Timor (*Wallace*); New Guinea (*S. Müller*); Australia, Cape York (*Mus. J. Gould*).

Description.—*Adult, in summer.* Bill long and stout, blackish-brown; base of mandible ochreous flesh-colour; inside of mouth flesh-colour; tongue blackish at tip. Iris large and dark brown. Forehead white, with a black band above it reaching to the eye on each side; lore, space under the eye, and ear-coverts black; top of the head and nape of the neck pale ferruginous. Back, wing-coverts, and tertials hair-brown; the feathers on the upper part of the back more or less tinged with rufous. Wing-coverts slightly tipped with white, forming a continuous bar of that colour, which is conspicuous in flight. Primaries almost black; the outer web of all, except the first five, mesially white; the shaft of the first pure white; the shafts of the others only mesially so. Tail-coverts hair-brown, approaching to white at the sides. Tail long and square, consisting of twelve feathers, pale hair-brown, the six middle feathers darkest in colour, the outermost on each side almost white, the tips of all white. Chin and throat pure white; across the breast a broad ferruginous collar, extending completely round the neck; the rest of the under parts, including the under wing-coverts and axillaries, pure white. Legs long and moderately slender, bluish-grey; toes and joints darker; claws black.

Adult, in winter. Bill as in summer; forehead white, with little or no trace of the black band which crosses it in summer; lore, space under the eye, and ear-coverts hair-brown. Top of the head, nape, back, wing-coverts, and tertials pale hair-brown. No trace of the ferruginous collar seen in summer, but a dusky hair-brown spot only on each side of the breast. The whole of the under parts, with this exception, pure white.

Young. Resembles to a certain extent the adult in winter, but with each feather on the upper portion of the plumage margined with pale buff, and in lieu of the pectoral band a buff spot on each side of the breast. The rest of the under parts from chin to breast pure white. Bill, legs, and toes lighter than in the adult.

Dimensions. Total length 8·5 inches; bill 1; wing, from carpus, 5·5; tarsus 1·4.

On glancing at the list of localities given above, it will be seen that the present species has a very extensive range; and it might be supposed in consequence that its history must be tolerably well known to ornithologists. The general resemblance, however, which this bird bears to other rufous-breasted Plovers, has led to its being confounded in turn with at least two distinct species of the same group. Moreover, although numerous isolated references to *Æ. geoffroyi* are to be found in various works, no attempt hitherto appears to have been made to bring together any thing like a complete history of the bird.

The first published description of this species is that which was given by Wagler in 1827 (*ut suprà*) under the name *Charadrius geoffroyi*, which, therefore, claims priority over the many others which have since been bestowed.

In 1828, Lesson, in his 'Manuel d'Ornithologie' (*loc. cit.*), described, as new, a Plover which had been brought from Pondicherry by M. Leschenault, naming it after that traveller. There is no doubt, from his description, that the species to which he referred was that which had been previously named by Wagler. He says,—"il est de la taille du Guignard [i. e. *Eudromias morinellus*]; mais ses jambes sont grêles et plus élevées, et son bec plus long et plus fort." Now, not only is the long and remarkably stout bill one of the distinguishing characters of *Æ. geoffroyi*, but from the fact of both Wagler and Lesson referring to a specimen from Pondicherry in the Paris Museum*, it is more than likely that each took his description from the same type.

This explanation appears necessary, first, in order to decide whose name should have priority, and, secondly, in order to show that Lesson's description does not, as some have supposed†, apply to the allied but smaller species, *Æ. mongolicus*, next to be described.

Ægialitis geoffroyi is well known to naturalists in India as the Large Sand-Plover; and Dr. Jerdon says that it is found all over India in suitable spots, retiring northwards to breed in April and May. At other seasons of the year it frequents the sea-coast and the mouths of large rivers in considerable flocks. Mr. Blyth obtained specimens in Calcutta in May, which were in full summer dress; and in this plumage also were the birds procured by Mr. Swinhoe at Shanghai.

In his list of the Birds of Cashmere and Ladakh (P. Z. S.

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* Lesson states that in the museum it bore the name of *C. griseus*, but adds significantly "non Lath."

† *E. g.* Blyth, J. A. S. B. xii. pp. 180, 181 (1843); Degland & Gerbe, Orn. Eur. ii. p. 141; Jerdon, B. Ind. iii. p. 639: Adams, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 188, and Beavan, Ibis, 1867, p. 332.

1859, p. 188) Dr. Leith Adams states that *Charadrius leschenaulti* is common on the banks of the Chimouraree Lake, where it breeds. Hence it would be inferred that *Æ. geoffroyi* is the species intended. But in his 'Wanderings of a Naturalist in India,' the same author shows, by the measurement he gives, that it was the allied and smaller species, which he found, with its young, running along the pebbly side of the lake; for he says, p. 283, "An adult male measured in the flesh 7 inches. Forehead is black, with a white spot in front of the eye. A black band passes from the bill through the eye; throat and neck are white; breast and sides of the neck light rufous." Lesson's name, therefore, was misapplied to the bird, as Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. iii. p. 640) has already remarked; for he says that it was the Lesser Sand-Plover (i. e. *Æ. mongolicus*) which Dr. Adams found breeding in Ladakh*.

Westward from India the present species extends through Palestine, where it was found in small numbers by Mr. Tristram (Ibis, 1870, pp. 207, 208). In the peninsula of Sinai, too, Mr. J. K. Lord procured specimens; and Kittlitz, Rüppell, and Dr. von Heuglin, all record its presence on the shores of the Red Sea. The last-named author states (Ibis, 1859, p. 345) that it is found on this coast throughout the year (doubtless a mistake), from as far north as Pelusium on the Mediterranean side; but he says nothing about its breeding.

Mr. Blanford, who accompanied the late expedition to Abyssinia, procured specimens of *Æ. geoffroyi* at Massowa, and at Zulla, in Annesley Bay; and Dr. Kirk has forwarded skins from Zanzibar†; so that the species would seem to be generally distributed along the entire length of the east coast of Africa. In South Africa, according to Mr. Layard, it is rare; for he only records a single specimen, killed on the Salt River near Cape Town in 1858. In Madagascar, on the contrary, it is common enough*; Mr. E. Newton found it in the Seychelles† and in Mauritius, from which last-named locality I have specimens, procured there by Mr. W. H. Power.

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* The late Mr. Strickland appears to have made the same mistake. All the specimens of *Æ. mongolicus* in his collection at Cambridge are labelled *Æ. leschenaulti*.

† This species is not included by Dr. Kirk in his list of the birds from the Zambesi region (Ibis, 1864, p. 331).

If we now trace the distribution of *Æ. geoffroyi* along the eastern shores of the Indian Ocean, it will be found to be pretty generally distributed from China and Japan, throughout the whole of the Malay archipelago, to New Guinea and Australia. On looking at the figure of Mr. Gould's *Hiaticula inornata* in the 'Birds of Australia,' I at one time thought with Professor Schlegel (Mus. P.-B. *Cursores*, p. 39) that the species referred to was *Æ. geoffroyi*. No measurements being given, I was led to this conclusion chiefly from the robust form of the bill in the figure. Mr. Gould, however, has recently shown me a skin of his species from Port Essington, which differs from the plate not only in plumage, being without the buff-coloured patch on each side of the breast (indicative of the first year's plumage), but also in not having the large bill which is depicted in the drawing. After carefully comparing this bird with skins of other allied species, there can be little doubt, I think, that it is *Æ. mongolicus* in winter plumage.

There is good reason, nevertheless, for including *Æ. geoffroyi* among the birds of Australia, although Mr. Gould has not yet done so. I have seen skins in winter plumage from Cape York, and it is not unlikely that, in North Australia at least, this species is a seasonal visitant.

On the sandy shores of Formosa, according to Mr. Swinhoe, our bird is abundant (*cf.* Ibis, 1863, p. 405); and from the fact of the young being found in the island, it is conjectured that the species breeds there. Nothing certain, however, with respect to its nest and eggs has yet been ascertained.

Like most of its congeners, it is gregarious, frequenting sandy shores and the mouths of large rivers. Dr. von Heuglin, who found this bird in the same locality with *Æ. mongolicus*, says (*l. c.*) that the two species kept in separate flocks. It need not be supposed, however, that this habit is constant. There can be no doubt that where different species live on the same kind of food, they will consort together to procure it; and this is even the case with species belonging to different genera. Mr. Swinhoe (J. A. S. B. xxix. p. 240) procured a specimen of *Æ. geoffroyi* in Amoy out of a flock of *Æ. cantianus*; and the example before mentioned, obtained by Mr. Layard in South Africa, was accidentally killed from a flock of *Charadriidæ* and *Tringæ*, feeding on a marsh; and "its stomach contained minute crustaceans, worms, and the insects found in these brackish waters." The stomachs of recently killed specimens examined by Mr. Swinhoe, in Formosa, were "lined with epithelia of a mud-colour, and filled with remains of small univalve mollusks and crustacea" (Ibis, 1863, p. 405). The period at which the breeding-plumage begins to be assumed varies considerably, and cannot be said to depend upon locality. Mr. Blanford procured a specimen at Zulla, Annesley Bay, which had acquired the rufous pectoral band on the 23rd January, while another, obtained a week earlier on the same coast, exhibited no signs of change from the winter plumage. An adult male and female, killed in Ceram on the 17th of April, were in full plumage, while a second male, killed at the same time and place, had no black on the forehead. At Calcutta and Shanghai, Messrs. Blyth and Swinhoe respectively found that this bird had fully acquired its summer dress in May; while an adult male shot by Mr. Lord on the 23rd of that month at Tor, in the peninsula of Sinai, had no trace of black upon the cheeks or forehead, and only a faint tinge of buff across the breast[*].

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* Schlegel & Pollen, Rech. Faun. Madag. *Mamm. et Ois.* p. 129; E. Newton, Ibis, 1863, p. 455.

† Ibis, 1867, p. 343.

6. ÆGIALITIS MONGOLICUS[†] (Pallas).

Charadrius mongolus, Pallas, Reise, iii. p. 700 (1776); Latham,

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[*] Messrs. Jerdon and Swinhoe (*l. c.*) have characterized this as "the largest species of the genus" *Ægialitis*; but they have overlooked the American Kildeer Plover, *Æ. vociferus* (Linn.), which, although possessing a somewhat shorter bill and tarsus than *Æ. geoffroyi*, exceeds it considerably in total length and expanse of wing. The relative measurements of *Æ. vociferus* are—total length 9·7, bill ·8, wing from carpus 6·5, tarsus 1·3.

[†] I retain this, as though not the oldest spelling of the word, it is possibly the more correct.

Syn. iii. pt. i. p. 207 (1785), *et* Ind. Orn. ii. p. 760 (1790); Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. p. 685 (1788).

Charadrius mongolicus, Pallas, Zoogr. R.-A. ii. p. 136 (1811); Middend. Sib. Reis. ii. 1, p. 211, taf. xix. figs. 2, 3 (1853); Schrenck, Reis. Amur-Lande, p. 411 (1860); Radde, Reis. S. O.-Sib. ii. p. 324 (1863); Schlegel, Mus. P.-B. *Cursores,* p. 41 (1865).

Charadrius cantianus, Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. xiii. p. 187 (1820).

Charadrius cirrhepidesmus, Wagler, Syst. Av. fol. 4, p. 13, no. 18 (1827); Heuglin, Ibis, 1859, p. 345.

Charadrius gularis, Wagler, *op. cit.* fol. 5, p. 5, no. 40.

Charadrius sanguineus, Lesson, Man. d'Orn. ii. p. 330 (1828), *et* Tr. d'Orn. p. 544 (1831).

"*Charadrius ruficollis,* Cuvier et Temm." Pucheran, Rev. Zool. 1851, p. 282.

Charadrius rufinellus, Blyth, Ann. & Mag. N.H. xii. p. 169 (1843).

Charadrius subrufinus, Hodgson, Zool. Misc. p. 86 (1844).

"*Charadrius pyrrhothorax,* Temm.," Gould, B. Eur. pl. 299 (1837); Bp. Comp. L. B. E. & N. Am. p. 45 (1838); Temm. Man. d'Orn. 2nd ed. iv. p. 355 (1840); Schlegel, Rev. Crit. pt. ii. p. 95 (1844); Bree, B. Eur. iv. p. 18 (1862); Tristram, P. Z. S. 1864, p. 450, *et* Ibis, 1868, p. 323.

Ægialitis pyrrhothorax, Keyserl. & Blas. Wirbelth. Eur. p. 70 (1840); Jerdon, B. Ind. iii. p. 639 (1864); Beavan (*fide* Tytler), Ibis, 1867, p. 332; Von Pelzeln, *op. cit.* 1868, p. 321.

Hiaticula inconspicua, Lichtenstein, Nomencl. Av. p. 94 (1854) (*descr. null.*).

Hiaticula inornata, Gould, B. Austral. vi. pl. 19.

Charadrius ruficollis, Heuglin, Syst. Uebers. Vög. N.-O.-Afr. p. 56 (1856).

Pluviorhynchus mongolus, Bonap. Compt. Rend. 1856, p. 417, *et* Cat. Ois. d'Eur. p. 14 (1856).

Cirrhepidesmus pyrrhothorax, Id. Compt. Rend. (*l. c.*).

Charadrius inornatus, G. R. Gray, Cat. B. N. Guinea, p. 51 (1859).

Charadrius leschenaulti, Adams, P. Z. S. 1859, p. 188, *et* Wand. Nat. India, p. 283 (1867) (*nec* Lesson).

Ochthodromus inornatus, Gould, Handb. B. Austral. ii. p. 237 (1865).

Charadrius mongolicus, Degl. & Gerbe, Orn. Eur. ii. p. 141 (1867); Blyth, Ibis, 1867, p. 164.

Hab. Mongolia (*Pallas, Radde*); Siberia, Ochotsk (*Middendorff*); Thibet, Ladakh (*Adams*); Kiangsisa (*Stoliczka*); Nepal (*Hodgson, Brandt*); India (*Blyth, Jerdon*); Andaman Isles (*Tytler*) (?); Choris Peninsula (*Moore*); Amoor (*Von Schrenck*); China, Shanghai, Hainan (*Swinhoe*); Philippines (*Cuming*); Malay Archipelago (*Müller, Wallace*); Oomago Island, Torres Straits (*Ince*); Australia (*Gilbert*); Russia, St. Petersburgh (*Temminck*); Palestine, mouth of Kishon (*Tristram*); Kordofan, Danakil Country (*Heuglin*).

DESCRIPTION.—Similar both in summer and winter plumage to the last-described species, but differing in size, being considerably smaller. The bill, also, is shorter, has the outline of both mandibles straighter, and is of a dark horn-colour; the iris dark yellow-brown; tarsus dull yellowish-grey (Middendorff, *l. c.*).

Dimensions. Total length 7·3 in.; bill ·7; wing from carpus 5; tarsus 1·3.

Before entering upon any other details, it may be thought necessary that I should state the reasons which have induced me to add *Æ. pyrrhothorax*, Temm., to the list of synonyms of the present species; for the propriety of so doing is not generally admitted.

Dr. von Middendorff considered *Æ. pyrrhothorax* to be distinct, probably regarding it as the western or European representative of the Asiatic *Æ. mongolicus*. But he does not point out any distinguishing characters; and perhaps, at the date of the publication of his work, he was not acquainted with the history of Temminck's so-called species. Be this as it may, his description and plate, compared with the descriptions of Pallas and Temminck, show that all three are referable to one and the same species, to which Pallas's name, having priority, must be applied.

Mr. Blyth has expressed the opinion (Ibis, 1867, p. 164) that *Charadrius pyrrhothorax*, Temm., should be erased from the list of synonyms of *Æ. mongolicus* (Pallas) "the North-African species in summer dress having no white on the forehead, and less rufous on the breast." From this remark it might be inferred, first, that Temminck took his description from a North-African specimen, and, secondly, that the Asiatic form invariably has white on the forehead. Neither inference would be in accordance with the facts; and, unwilling as I am to dissent from so high an authority as Mr. Blyth, I think I shall be able to show that *Æ. pyrrhothorax* (Temm.) is identical with *Æ. mongolicus* (Pallas), and that the differences in plumage which are observable in different specimens, and have led to the supposition that the two names belonged to two species, are such only as are easily referable to age and to the particular season of the year at which the specimens were obtained.

The bird described by Temminck in his 'Manuel' (*ut suprà*), and through his instrumentality figured by Mr. Gould in his 'Birds of Europe,' was killed in the neighbourhood of St. Petersburg, having strayed thither, in all probability, from Asia. Both the description and plate show that in this specimen the forehead is black and white, in this respect, as in every other, agreeing with the description given by Pallas, both in his 'Reise' and 'Zoographia.' The measurements given by both authors, too, confirm the impression that they both referred to the same species. What, then, is the species referred to by Mr. Blyth, which he would confine to North Africa, and call *Æ. pyrrhothorax*, Temm., and of which he says that it has no white on the forehead in summer? There is a specimen in the British Museum from Egypt which answers to his description; and this, as he informs me, suggested his remark which I have quoted. I have recently examined the type-specimen of *C. pyrrhothorax* in the Leyden Museum. This is labelled "♂. St. Petersburg, Brandt; individu type du *Charadrius pyrrhothorax* (*mongolicus*) Temm.;" and although at first sight it appears to have no white on the forehead, as indicated by the plate and description, an examination shows that the tips only of the frontal feathers are black, the bases being white, indicating the change to winter plumage. Dr. von Schrenck described a specimen with black forehead, from the Amoor; and I have in my own collection a similar specimen from Calcutta, labelled "*Hiaticula mongolica*, summer dress, Calcutta," in Mr. Blyth's handwriting. Two examples, procured in June in New Guinea, are in the Leyden Museum, one of which has the forehead black; the other black bordered with a few white feathers. I have seen others also from India in which the forehead was black, or almost black, showing that black-fronted birds are not confined to North Africa, where, in fact, the species in any plumage is rare. But in most of these, although the forehead may fairly be called black, there is a faint indication of a white line dividing the black frontal band. In winter all trace of black about the head entirely disappears; and between winter and summer plumage, a large series shows every possible gradation from pure white to coal-black. Dr. Pucheran, in identifying "*C. ruficollis*, Cuv.," with the present species, mentions (*loc. cit.*) the variation observable in the frontal band. I am not prepared to say that the black forehead indicates the full summer plumage, but rather incline to consider it exceptional*. I have seen but few specimens in which the forehead was really uniformly black; and in a large series of skins examined, which in other respects appeared to have completed their summer plumage, the majority certainly had the forehead black and white.

But whatever may be said of the black-fronted bird, there can be no doubt, for the reasons above stated, that *C. pyrrhothorax*, Temm., must stand as a synonym of *C. mongolicus*, Pallas.

The claim of this species to a place in the European avifauna rests solely, so far as I am aware, upon the solitary instance recorded by Messrs. Temminck and Gould of its occurrence near St. Petersburg. It is really an Asiatic species, ranging much further towards the north than *Æ. geoffroyi*, and found scarcely so far southwards in winter. Pallas fixed its home in Mongolia, or, rather, on the confines of the Mongol territory. He found it in the neighbourhood of salt-lakes between the rivers Onon and Argun; and, identifying it with the *C. mongolus* of his former work, he enters into a very full description of it in his 'Zoographia,' altering his specific name to *mongolicus* (*ut suprà*). Dr. von Middendorff fell in with this bird in large flocks about the 30th of June, at the mouth of the Uda, on the Sea of Ochotsk. These flocks were observed up to the 21st of July, without his meeting with any paired or breeding birds; and on closer inspection it was found that they consisted chiefly of females. As might be supposed from the date, they were all in summer-plumage. In a freshly killed bird, the bill was dark horn-colour, the iris dark yellow-brown, tarsus dull yellowish-grey, the toes scarcely lighter than the iris, and the soles a little darker. He further remarks that a wounded bird swam and dived well.

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* A specimen of *Eudromias morinellus* in my collection differs from the ordinary type in having the forehead *from the base of the bill and gape*, as well as the crown and nape, sooty-black, a case analogous to that of the black-fronted *Æ. mongolicus*.

Herr Radde states (*l. c.*) that he met with this handsome species in the north-east corner of Mongolia as rarely as Pallas did. It made its appearance at Tarei-nor in a flock of about fifty, but not until the 12th of May. The birds at that time were extremely wild, flying low along the shore, performing graceful evolutions, without uttering any note. An old male killed from this flock corresponded, in his opinion, very well with the bird figured by Dr. von Middendorff. In no other part of the south of Eastern Siberia did he find it. Dr. von Schrenck describes this species from the Amoor with the forehead black.

The most northern locality which I have hitherto noted for *Æ. mongolicus* is the Choris Peninsula in Behrings Straits. Two specimens in summer plumage were procured there by Capt. Moore, of H.M.S. 'Plover,' in 1849, and came into the possession of Mr. Barrow, who recently presented them, with the rest of his collection, to the New Museum at Oxford. Herr Stoliczka (*ut suprà*) met with this species in Thibet; and, as I have remarked in treating of the preceding species, Dr. Leith Adams (*locc. citt.*) has recorded it under the name of *C. leschenaulti*, as breeding on the banks of the Chimouraree Lake in Ladakh. It is well known to naturalists in India as the Lesser Sand-Plover. Mr. Hodgson included it in his catalogue of the Birds of Nepâl; and Mr. Blyth states that it is commonly brought into the Calcutta market and may be procured there in the month of May in full summer plumage. Dr. Jerdon obtained it "in the Carnatic, at Madras, on the Malabar coast, and elsewhere also, but more rarely, and seldom far inland."

I am indebted to Mr. Swinhoe for the loan of specimens from Shanghai and Hainan in various stages of plumage. One of these, apparently in full summer-dress, was procured at Shanghai in May. It corresponds in every way with the descriptions given by Pallas, Temminck, and Middendorff, and with the plates of the latter and Gould. Mr. Swinhoe is inclined to think that it may be found in Northern Japan* (Ibis, 1863, p. 444). Specimens from the Philippines, brought home by Mr. Cuming, are in the British Museum. One of these, in summer plumage, accords with the usual Indian type, and has the forehead black and white.

The late Lieut. Beavan (*ut suprà*) included it with some hesitation in his "Avifauna of the Andaman Islands," referring to it as the Lesser Sand-Plover, *Æ. pyrrhothorax* (Temm.), but erroneously adding as a synonym *C. leschenaulti*, Less.

The *Charadrius cantianus* of Horsfield, from Java, is *Æ. mongolicus* in winter plumage. It appears to be pretty generally distributed throughout the Malay Archipelago; Mr. Wallace brought home some skins from several of the islands, including the Aru group. I have already stated my reasons for believing that *Hiaticula inornata*, Gould, like Horsfield's *C. cantianus*, is the present species in winter dress. If the bird from New Guinea, referred to by Mr. G. R. Gray as *Charadrius inornatus* (*ut suprà*), be identical with the bird which Mr. Gould showed me as his *inornata*, then we may add, to the list of localities for *Æ. mongolicus*, New Guinea† and Oomago Island, Torres Straits. The southernmost limit at present recorded for this species is Port Essington, in North Australia. Here it appears to be a winter visitant, and, according to Mr. Gould (Handb. *ut suprà*), it was found by Mr. Gilbert abundantly on most of the sandy points and bays. "The stomachs of those dissected," it is added, "contained the remains of small crustaceous animals and a large portion of sand."

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* Capt. Blakiston has in fact included it amongst the Birds of Northern Japan (Ibis, 1862, p. 330), but evidently in error, as appears by his note, which is as follows:—"A female specimen of the Eastern Golden Plover, was shot in September." The species to which he referred was, of course, *C. longipes*.

† Since writing this I have seen several examples from New Guinea in the Leyden Museum.

In the work just quoted it will be observed that Mr. Gould has substituted the name of *Ochthodromus inornatus* for the *Hiaticula inornata* of his folio publication, associating it with the *Ochthodromus wilsoni* of America, and taking it out of the Ring-Plover group (*Ægialitis,* Boie, *Hiaticula,* Gray). I cannot help thinking that his former name might have been very properly retained; for not only in plumage (especially in the forehead-band, and pectoral band), but also in general structure and habits, the present species is a true Ringed Plover.

Bonaparte has placed it in two distinct generà! In the adult plumage he has associated it with *C. obscurus,* Gmelin, in his genus *Pluviorhynchus*; whilst the same species in immature garb constitutes the type of his genus *Cirrepidesmus,* which was doubtless founded upon the *Charadrius cirrhepidesmus* of Wagler.

Slender as is the claim of this species to be included amongst the Birds of Europe, it has scarcely a better title to be considered African. Straying through Palestine, where Mr. Tristram (*ut supra*) found it in winter on the banks of the Kishon, it has been observed in Kordofan, on the Red-Sea shore, by Dr. von Heuglin (*locc. citt.*). Rüppell, however, does not include it in his list of North-East African species. With the exception of the single example in the British Museum, I have seen no skins from Egypt, and have looked for it in vain in many collections from the Nile. Mr. Blanford did not meet with it in Abyssinia; and although Dr. von Heuglin records it from Tajurrah, in the Danakil country (*ut suprà*), I am disposed to regard its visits to Africa as only occasional in winter. It is not recorded from South Africa, nor from Madagascar, where its congener, the preceeding species, is common in winter.

The habits of the two birds, however, are similar, although their geographical range is not coextensive. Gregarious throughout the greater portion of the year, *Æ. mongolicus* appears to pair very late. It is rather remarkable that none of the Russian travellers met with its nest; and it is to be regretted that Dr. Leith Adams, who discovered one of its breeding-haunts in Ladakh, was not enabled to describe the eggs, the young being already hatched when he made the discovery.

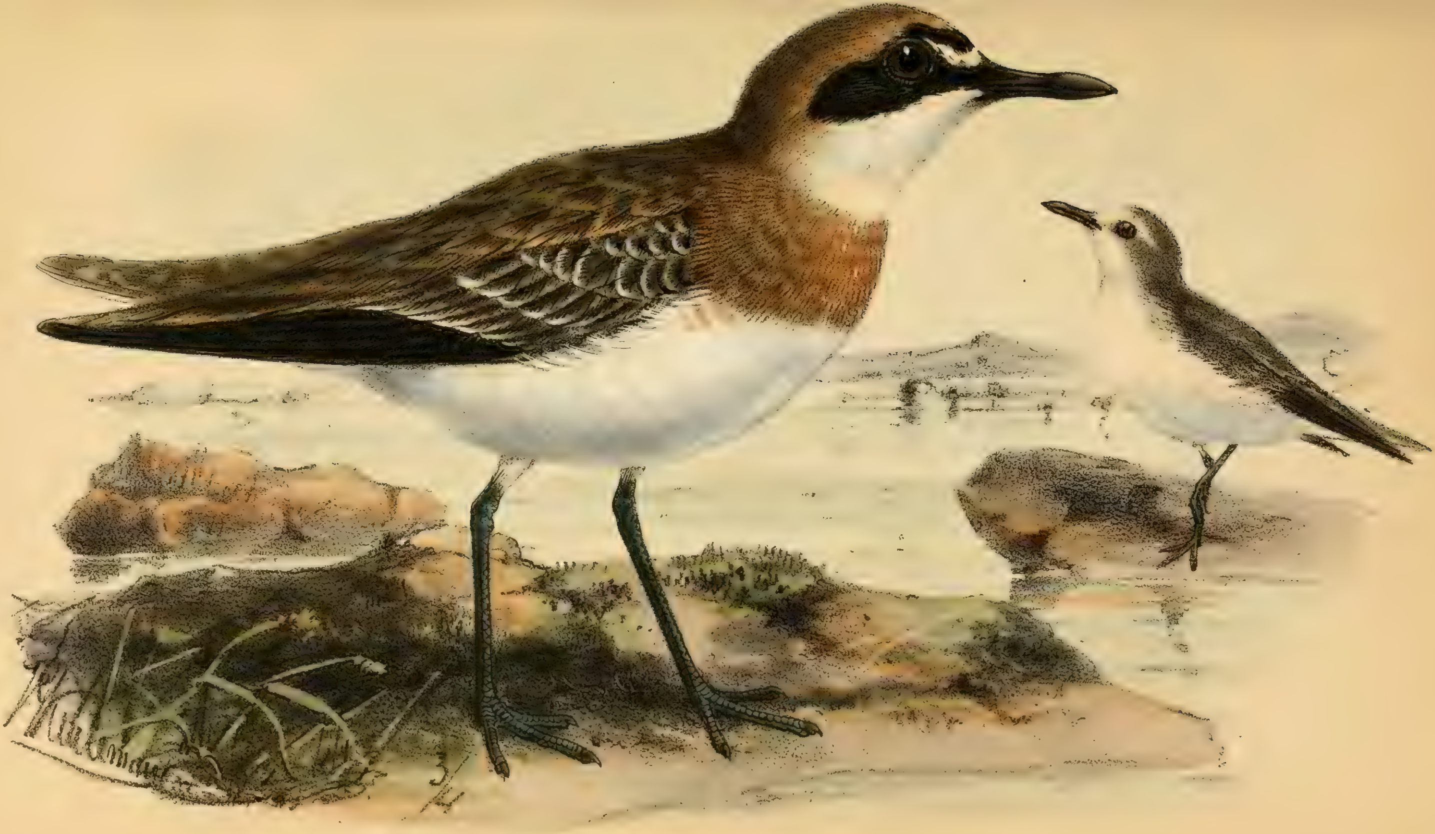
XXVII.—*Notes on some of the Birds inhabiting the Province of Auckland, New Zealand.* By Capt. F. W. HUTTON.

FALCONIDÆ:—*Hieracidea novæ-zelandiæ* is not uncommon, but rarely seen, as it inhabits the bush. *Circus assimilis,* on the contrary, is very numerous. In the old bird the cere and base of the bill are whitish-blue, and the irides sulphur-yellow, while in the young the cere is yellow and the irides hazel. It breeds in swampy places and in cultivated districts, sometimes in corn-fields. The nest is composed of a few pieces of stick rudely put together. Egg ovoid, white, with some spots of pale brown, something like that of a Turkey. Length 1·75 in., greatest breadth 1·4 in.

ALCEDINIDÆ:—*Halcyon vagans* is common; it breeds in holes in the banks of streams, and lays five white eggs: length 1·1 in., breadth ·9 in.

MELIPHAGIDÆ:—*Prosthemadera novæ-zelandiæ* is common. Irides hazel. Both this bird and *Anthornis melanura,* beside their loud liquid notes, sing a varied song in a very low tone, as if to themselves. The latter makes a nest, loosely put together, of small twigs, roughly lined with grass and lichens. The eggs are white, more or less spotted with rusty: length ·85 in., breadth ·65 in. Irides crimson. Legs and feet slate-blue. It is common on the Great and Little Barrier Islands, but becoming very rare on the mainland. *Pogonornis cincta* is also abundant on the Little Barrier, not uncommon on the Great Barrier, but, I believe, quite extinct on the mainland of this province. Its irides are black.

CERTHIIDÆ:—*Acanthisitta chloris* is found in the wooded hills of the Great and Little Barrier Islands. It runs up the trunks of the trees like a Tree-Creeper, and picks insects out of the bark. I have also seen *Anthornis melanura* do the same.



M & N Hanhart imp.

AGIALITIS GEOFFROYI